

WI-412

c. 1900-10

Alpheus J. Humphreys Farm

Salisbury vicinity

Private

The Alpheus J. Humphreys farm is distinguished by two early twentieth-century structures, a two-and-a-half story, cross-gabled frame house and a two-story rectangular brick potato house. The center hall/single pile frame dwelling is trimmed with a modest layer of Victorian decoration, which is limited to spindle brackets in the eaves of the turned post porch, and a cross gable roof finished with exposed and decorated rafter ends. The potato house, on the other hand, is one of three brick potato houses known in Wicomico County. The seven-course common bond brick walls are pierced by segmental arches that span two tiers of window openings. Piercing the roofline is a series of metal vents as well as an interior end brick flue used during the winter months to keep the potato crop from freezing.

Construction of these two buildings is estimated to date around 1900-10, and probably during the ownership of Alpheus J. Humphreys, who with Sewell W. Humphreys, Robert J. Humphreys, and Edmund Humphreys, purchased 256 acres from Nannie R. Jackson, widow of Elihu Jackson. The property remained in Humphreys family hands until the mid 1930s when it was purchased by the Del-Mar-Va Mortgage Corporation. In 1937 the farm, then containing 72 acres and the buildings, was acquired by Wilford J. and Beatrice L. White. At that time the property was identified as the "Alpheus J. Humphreys land."

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Alpheus J. Humphreys House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-412

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Farm Complex
 -Farmhouse
 -Potato House

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-412

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Alpheus J. Humphreys Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 27704 Crooked Oak Lane ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☒ vicinity of First congressional district

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert L. Messick

street & number Morris Mill Drive telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 47, Parcel 249
liber 201

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 19

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town Salisbury state MD

7. Description

Survey No. WI-412

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Alpheus J. Humphreys farm, more commonly known as the Wilford White farm, is located at 27704 Crooked Oak Lane, west of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. Centered on the 72-acre farm is an early twentieth-century farm complex that includes a two-and-a-half story, single-pile, cross-gabled frame dwelling and a two-story common bond brick potato house. The two buildings occupy a slight knoll approximately three-hundred feet east of Crooked Oak Lane.

Estimated to date around 1910, the two-and-a-half story frame house is supported on an infilled brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched cross gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, two-bay by one-room plan kitchen wing. Standing behind the house is a two-story rectangular brick potato house also built during the early twentieth century. Large implement storage sheds stand east of the potato house.

The west (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking replacement windows. The front door is partially glazed. Sheltering the first floor is a hip roof porch supported on turned posts featuring delicate spindle brackets. The second floor is lighted by three replacement windows, and the cross gable is pierced by a small two-over-two sash window. The edge of the roofline is finished with exposed and decorated rafter ends. Piercing the roofline is a pair of interior brick stove chimneys topped with corbelled caps.

The north and south gable ends are defined by single window openings on each floor, and small two-over-two sash windows pierce the gable ends. The end of the roof has an extended eave with an open soffit.

The east side of the main block is largely covered by the two-story, one-room plan kitchen wing, which is extended on the north and south sides by single-story shed roofed additions. A narrow brick stove chimney rises through the gable end and is finished with a corbelled cap.

The brick potato house has seven-course common bond walls and a steeply pitched gable roof. The potato house has an excavated cellar, which is reached by way of a gable roofed frame entrance located on the south side of the building. The upper level is access through a door opening centered on the south wall and distinguished by a double-rowlock, segmental arched header. The east and west sides of the potato house are defined by two tiers of segmental arched window openings. The north gable end is a plain brick wall.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-412

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Alpheus J. Humphreys farm is distinguished by two early twentieth-century structures, a two-and-a-half story, cross-gabled frame house and a two-story rectangular brick potato house. The center hall/single pile frame dwelling is trimmed with a modest layer of Victorian decoration, which is limited to spindle brackets in the eaves of the turned post porch, and a cross gable roof finished with exposed and decorated rafter ends. The potato house, on the other hand, is one of three brick potato houses known in Wicomico County. The seven-course common bond brick walls are pierced by segmental arches that span two tiers of window openings. Piercing the roofline is a series of metal vents as well as an interior end brick flue used during the winter months to keep the potato crop from freezing.

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¹ Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 62/204, March 19, 1904.

² Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 195/178, January 1, 1936.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, 201/19, January 5, 1937.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-412

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 5/3/99

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

WI-412
Alpheus J. Humphreys Farm
27704 Crooked Oak Lane
Salisbury vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 47, Parcel 249
72.79 acres

201/19 The Del-Mar-Va Mortgage Company

to

1/5/1937 Wilford J. White
 Beatrice L. White

72 acres "Alpheus J. Humphreys Land"

IDT 195/178 The Del-Mar-Va Mortgage Corporation

to

1/1/1936 The Del-Mar-Va Mortgage Company

Item No. 5 72 acres being all the same land conveyed to the
 Del-Mar-Va Corporation by Levin C. Bailey,
 trustee, 3/24/1934, IDT 184/9

EAT 62/204 Nannie R. Jackson, Executrix of Elihu Jackson, deceased

to

3/19/1909 Alpheus J. Humphreys, Sewell W. Humphreys, Robert J.
 Humphreys, and Edmund Humphreys

256 acres

EDEN QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)

8860 (NE
(DEL MAR)

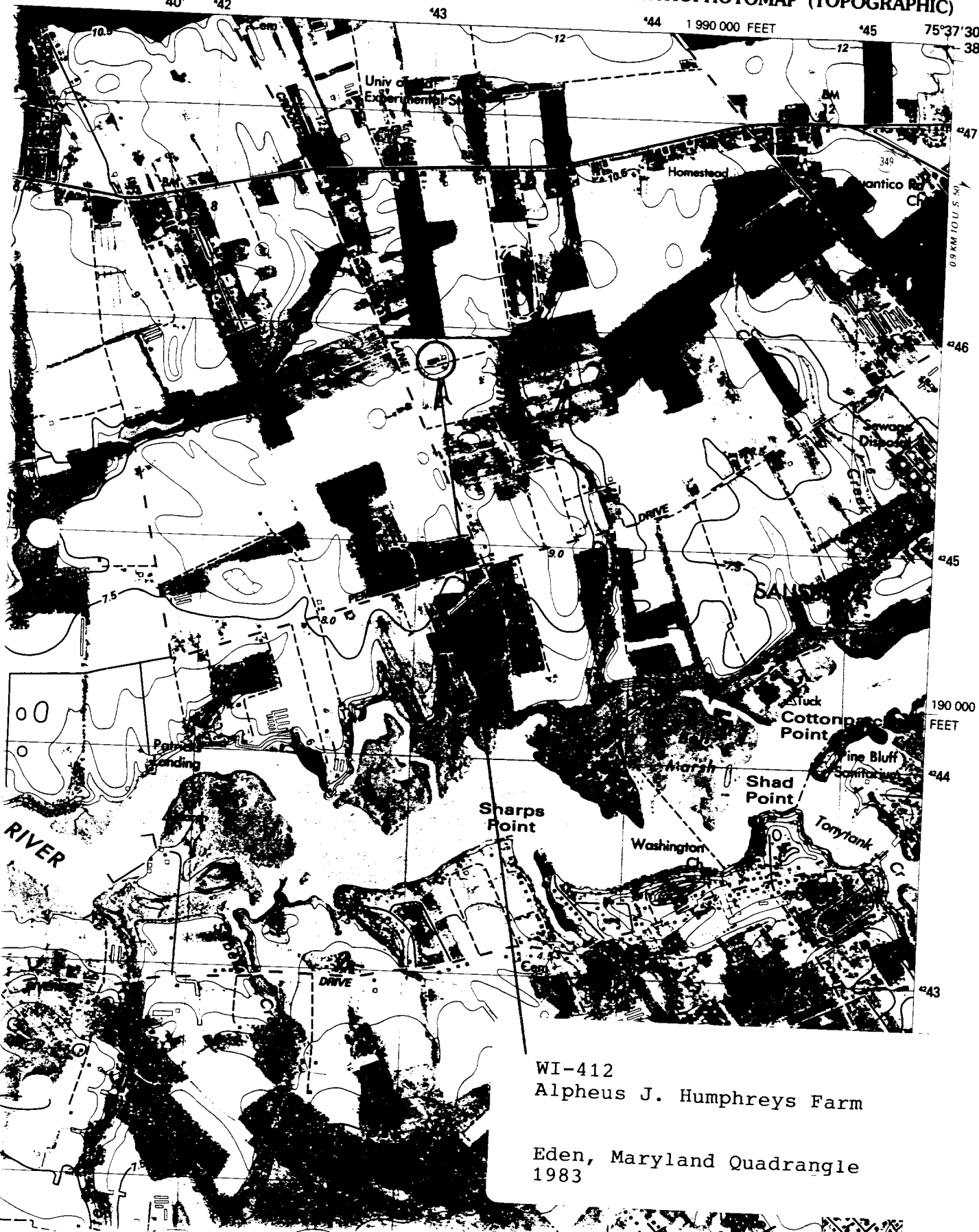
40' 42

43

44 1 990 000 FEET

45 75°37'30"

38°22'30"



447

446

445

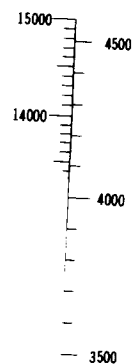
190 000 FEET

444

443

CONVERSION
SCALES

Feet Meters



WI-412
Alpheus J. Humphreys Farm

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1983







W1-412

Adrianus J. Hammon & Fern
Smytham, Wiscasset, Me.

East elevation

9/99, Pine Toward, Port Townsend
N.E. Ind. Hydrogen Trust

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